From:	Goodwin, Eoanna (REC)
To:	Aparton, Tamara (REC); Ng, Beverly (REC)
Subject:	Fw: Page & Turnbull Report on Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza
Date:	Monday, June 9, 2025 8:40:35 AM

Eoanna Harrison Goodwin AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Project Manager, Capital and Planning Division
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1220 | San Francisco, CA 94103
(628) 652-6645 | eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

From: Nord Wennerstrom <nord@tclf.org>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:45:01 AM
To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Page & Turnbull Report on Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza

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Dear Ms. Goodwin,

Good morning. Just read the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the fencing being erected around the Vaillancourt Fountain. The article mentions a 122-page report by Page and Turnbull that assesses the condition of the fountain; I've been searching the SF Rec and Parks website and have not been able to find a link to the report. Would you please send a link or an electronic copy of the report?

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Nord Wennerstrom

Nord Wennerstrom
Director of Communications
The Cultural Landscape Foundation
1711 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009
(t) 202.483.0553 (m) 202.255.7076 (f) 202.483.0761

www.tclf.org

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Read about Kongjian Yu, winner of the 2023 Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC)
To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC)
Subject: FW: Vaillancourt Fountain report and newly documented risks
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 4:59:00 PM
Attachments: Vaillancourt Render.jpg

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park | 501 Stanyan Street | San Francisco, CA | 94117

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From: Aparton, Tamara (REC)
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:15 PM
To: Whiting, Sam <swhiting@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain report and newly documented risks

Hi Sam,
Here's a dropbox link to the embargoed report. Let me know if you can't access it. I understand it's scheduled to go live on the website at 4 a.m. Monday. As agreed, please hold off on outreach to the artist or other constituents until Sunday afternoon. You're welcome to contact the Arts Commission—they've already received the report.

We've been reviewing a series of technical reports as part of early planning for the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project, and this one, which just came

in, is extremely concerning because the findings point to a clear and immediate public safety risk at the Vaillancourt Fountain. The piece was designed to be interactive. People were encouraged to walk through it and engage with the sculpture. That's clearly no longer safe. The structure is unstable, hazardous materials are present, and we cannot allow public access to a space that now poses multiple safety risks.

As a precaution, we'll be installing protective fencing around the entire fountain starting Monday morning. There's already a 72-inch barrier behind the fountain; this new addition will include a 42-inch ClearVu fence in front—low-profile but effective at preventing climbing or close contact, without obstructing views. A rendering is attached.

This report, prepared by Page & Turnbull, with structural analysis by DCI Engineers and hazardous materials testing by North Tower Environmental, is the most thorough assessment of the fountain to date. The bottom line is that the fountain is no longer safe to approach or interact with.

Here are some key findings in the report: (see *Conclusions*, p. 31 of the PDF):

1. The structure is failing and dangerous.
    - The fountain doesn't meet modern seismic safety standards and could fail in a major earthquake.
    - Parts of the structure are cracked, corroded, or missing, including a key support rod in one arm.
    - It sits on unstable Bay Mud and unconsolidated fill—high-risk conditions during seismic events.
2. The infrastructure is nonfunctional.
    - All pumps and motors have failed.
    - The underground vault floods, violates OSHA standards, and is no longer safe for staff.
    - Electrical and lighting systems are beyond repair.
    - Waterproofing has failed, allowing ongoing structural damage.
3. Hazardous materials are confirmed and presumed.
    - Lead and asbestos are present in multiple areas.
    - Asbestos is also presumed in structural joints and the original waterproofing membrane, based on 1960s–70s construction methods.
    - Any repair would require full abatement and specialized safety protocols.
4. Full restoration would require massive investment.
    - Report doesn't give a dollar amount but our structural maintenance yard estimated the cost of just replacing the systems to be $10 million. With the structural work needed and the removal of the hazardous materials, it could easily be $12-17 million.
    - As you recall, the fountain has required roughly $100,000/year in maintenance.

Here's a quote from me if you need one

"The fountain isn't just falling apart—it's hazardous. The structure is cracked, corroded, and missing key supports. Add lead and asbestos to the mix, and it's a serious safety risk. That's why we're fencing it off now, to protect the public while longer term decisions are made."

What's Next?

- This latest development doesn't change the pace or scope of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. That effort is moving forward as planned. This is simply a necessary safety step in response to a newly documented risk.
- The Vaillancourt Fountain is part of San Francisco's Civic Art Collection. Any proposals or recommendation for consideration of removal of works in the Civic Art Collection from City property would be required to go through a formal public process led by the San Francisco Arts Commission (Charter Sec. 5.103.). This would include a presentation at a future Visual Arts Committee and Full Commission meeting, which will include an opportunity for the public to provide comments.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park | 501 Stanyan Street | San Francisco, CA | 94117

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From:	Bartlett, Amanda
To:	Aparton, Tamara (REC); Te, Coma (ART); Communications, RPD (REC)
Cc:	Ventre, Alyssa (ART); Tom, Edward (ART)
Subject:	Re: [EXT] RE: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain
Date:	Monday, June 9, 2025 12:41:47 PM
Attachments:	image004.png image005.png

Thank you so much Tamara and Coma! This is super helpful. I'll let you know if I have any follow-up questions.

Best,

Amanda

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 at 10:15 AM
To: Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>, Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>, Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ventre, Alyssa (ART) <alyssa.ventre@sfgov.org>, Tom, Edward (ART) <edward.tom1@sfgov.org>
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

Thanks, Coma.

Amanda, this covers most of what you asked me in a separate email, but wanted to make sure your additional questions were answered:

On what led to the decision: We've been reviewing a series of routine technical reports as part of early planning for the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This one, which came in last week, raised immediate concerns about public safety.

Why install a fence – did you consider any other methods? We wanted to preserve views of the fountain while preventing climbing or close contact. There's already a 72-inch barrier behind the fountain; this new addition is a 42-inch ClearVu fence in front—low-profile and clear for viewing, but still deters people from interacting with the piece.

What would be the cost to fully renovate the fountain?
We estimate $12-17 million.

Is it possible it could be preserved?
Report says it could be possible—it would just be a very expensive and hazardous endeavor.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
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From: Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 10:03 AM
To: Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>; Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ventre, Alyssa (ART) <alyssa.ventre@sfgov.org>; Tom, Edward (ART) <edward.tom1@sfgov.org>
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

Hi Amanda,

An independent structural report about the fountain was just released, which you can find here

Given the findings presented in the structural report, public safety comes first. The Arts Commission supports Rec and Parks' decision to secure the area as they work to complete planning and design work for the plaza.

Here's a statement from Rec and Park:

The Vaillancourt Fountain was designed for people to interact with it. This report made it clear that is no longer safe. Parts of the structure are cracked, corroded, or missing,

including a key support rod in one arm. It also contains lead and asbestos. As a result, we are fencing it off. People will still be able to view the piece, but not walk through it. This step is strictly about ensuring public safety. It doesn't impact the timeline or scope of the broader Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. Any long-term decisions regarding the future of the fountain will follow the public process established by the Arts Commission, including review by the Visual Arts Committee and opportunities for community input.

Looping in REC communications for any further input/questions about the installation of the fence and to help answer your questions.

Thanks,

Coma Te
Director of Communications
Pronouns: he/him
Email: coma.te@sfgov.org
Office: 415-252-2229
Mobile: 415-254-4634

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
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The San Francisco Arts Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone. We affirm the sovereign rights of their community as First Peoples and are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the American Indian community and uplifting contemporary indigenous voices and culture.

Please be mindful that all correspondence and documents submitted to the San Francisco Arts Commission are public records and, as such, are subject to the Sunshine Ordinance and can be requested by the public. If this happens, personal identifying information such as personal emails and phone numbers will be redacted.

From: Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Ventre, Alyssa (ART) <alyssa.ventre@sfgov.org>; Tom, Edward (ART) <edward.tom1@sfgov.org>; Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: [EXT] RE: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

Hi Alyssa and Coma,

Thank you so much for getting back to me on this. I hope you had a nice weekend!

I wanted to reach out again because I'm looking into a follow-up on this story and the news that city officials have fenced off the fountain for safety reasons. Some questions below:

Can you tell me more about what led to that decision, and why it's happening now?

What are some of the safety concerns?

Why install a fence – did you consider any other methods?

What would be the cost to fully renovate the fountain?

Is it possible it could be preserved?

What's next for the future of the fountain? How long will it be fenced off? When will any final decisions be made about its fate?

Additionally, if you're able to share the report from Page & Turnbull, that would be super helpful. Thanks for your time and consideration!

Best,

Amanda

From: Ventre, Alyssa (ART) <alyssa.ventre@sfgov.org>
Date: Friday, May 23, 2025 at 9:25 AM
To: Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>, Tom, Edward (ART) <edward.tom1@sfgov.org>
Subject: [EXT] RE: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

Hi Amanda,

Yes, San Francisco Arts Commission staff met with the artist on Tuesday and engaged in conversation about the fountain. We thank the artist and his representatives for meeting with staff and for the opportunity to hear the artists' thoughts in person.

As part of the Civic Arts Collection, the sculpture falls under the jurisdiction of the Arts Commission. However, Rec and Park has historically maintained the mechanical aspects of the fountain and its pumps. It required near-daily maintenance due to its aging infrastructure and frequent vandalism. Their crews regularly handled graffiti removal, pump repairs, debris clearing, electrical issues, and water quality management. The system had persistent leaks and drainage failures that made upkeep

especially complex and labor-intensive.

The fountain has now been fully inoperable since May of 2024 when its last operational pump failed. It was installed in 1971 and its system's mechanical and electrical infrastructure is obsolete. It would require a complete restoration.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (REC) is leading this public-private partnership to redesign Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park. Further details about the project can be found here: https://sfrecpark.org/1819/Embarcadero-Plaza-and-Sue-Bierman-Park-R.

The project is currently in the planning and design phase. REC plans to hold a second community meeting that will be scheduled for later this summer, which members of the public are invited to attend to learn more and share their feedback. A date for that meeting has not yet been set.

Best,
Alyssa

Alyssa Ventre
Chief of Staff
Pronouns: she/hers
Email: alyssa.ventre@sfgov.org
Phone: 415-252-2255
Mobile: 415-471-4387

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The San Francisco Arts Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone. We affirm the sovereign rights of their community as First Peoples and are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the American Indian community and uplifting contemporary indigenous voices and culture.

Please be mindful that all correspondence and documents submitted to the San Francisco Arts Commission are public records and, as such, are subject to the Sunshine Ordinance and can be requested by the public. If this happens, personal information such as personal emails, Social Security numbers and phone numbers will be redacted.

From: Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 3:09 PM
To: Ventre, Alyssa (ART) <alyssa.ventre@sfgov.org>; Tom, Edward (ART) <edward.tom1@sfgov.org>

Subject: FW: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

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Hi Alyssa and Edward,

I'm forwarding on my inquiry to you both as I just got Coma's out of office message. Thank you so much!

Best,

Amanda

From: Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>
Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 3:05 PM
To: coma.te@sfgov.org <coma.te@sfgov.org>
Subject: SFGATE story: Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

Good afternoon Coma,

I hope you're having a nice week so far. I'm reaching out because I'm looking into a story about the future of the Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza after reading about how artist Armand Vaillancourt flew down to SF to ask city officials to preserve it within new park renovation plans after not seeing it included in renderings. I wondered if you could confirm whether you have planned/are planning to meet with him to discuss further and if so, what he had to say about the sculpture and what else you talked about?

What are the costs to maintain the sculpture, and what challenges does it face?

What would take its place if it were to be replaced? Where does the future lie for the sculpture itself?

Any other information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much!

Amanda

Amanda Bartlett
Assistant Local Editor
515-779-4609
amanda.bartlett@sfgate.com

SFGATE

From: Bartlett, Amanda
To: Mojadad, Ida; Aparton, Tamara (REC); Montes, Daniel (REC); Communications, RPD (REC)
Subject: Re: [EXT] RE: Vaillancourt closure
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 12:47:43 PM

Thanks, everyone!

From: Mojadad, Ida <Ida.Mojadad@sfgate.com>
Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 at 10:56 AM
To: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>, Montes, Daniel (REC) <daniel.montes@sfgov.org>, Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Cc: Bartlett, Amanda <Amanda.Bartlett@sfgate.com>
Subject: Re: [EXT] RE: Vaillancourt closure

Thanks Tamara! Kicking this over to Amanda on our local team

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:34 AM
To: Mojadad, Ida <Ida.Mojadad@sfgate.com>; Montes, Daniel (REC) <daniel.montes@sfgov.org>; Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Subject: [EXT] RE: Vaillancourt closure

Hi Ida! Congrats on the SFGate job.

Yes, crews are extending the fencing around the fountain this morning. The background in this is we've been reviewing a series of technical reports as part of early planning for the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. After this one came in last week it was clear immediately that we had to fence it for public safety reasons.

The piece was designed to be interactive. People were encouraged to walk through it and engage with the sculpture. That's clearly no longer safe. The structure is unstable and hazardous materials are present. People will still be able to view the fountain, but not interact with it.

This step is solely about safety and does **not** affect the timeline or scope of the renovation project, which continues as planned.
Any longer-term decisions regarding the fountain will go through the public process outlined by the Arts Commission, including review by the Visual Arts Committee and opportunities for public comment.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

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From: Mojadad, Ida <Ida.Mojadad@sfgate.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 7:29 AM
To: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>; Montes, Daniel (REC) <daniel.montes@sfgov.org>; Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt closure

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Hi Tamara and Daniel,

Hope you two are doing well! Reaching out from yet another newsroom email, this time about the Vaillancourt fountain closure. I see it just went into effect this morning - could you confirm the closure and the reason in a statement? When was the decision made, since that assessment was issued last week?

Looking forward to hearing more - thanks in advance!

Best,
Ida

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC)
To: Whiting, Sam
Subject: RE: [EXT] Vaillancourt Fountain report and newly documented risks
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 7:18:00 PM
Attachments: vaillancourtsummaryandconclusions.pdf

Here is the summary and conclusion pages. You should also be able to just increase the zoom on the document by pressing the + button at the top of the pdf.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
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From: Whiting, Sam <SWhiting@sfchronicle.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:23 PM
To: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: [EXT] Vaillancourt Fountain report and newly documented risks

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The dropbox link came through but the pages are tiny. I will go mostly fromyur summary but can you enlarge the summary page from the dropbox and send as a pdf file or whatever? If not,

I will try to figure out how to enlarge the pages or get tech to help me.

Thanks.

Sam Jackson Whiting

Staff Writer

901 Mission St.

San Francisco, CA 94103

C: 415-646-5024

swhiting@sfchronicle.com

San Francisco Chronicle

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:14 PM
To: Whiting, Sam <swhiting@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: [EXT] Vaillancourt Fountain report and newly documented risks

Hi Sam,
Here's a dropbox link to the embargoed report. Let me know if you can't access it. I understand it's scheduled to go live on the website at 4 a.m. Monday. As agreed, please hold off on outreach to the artist or other constituents until Sunday afternoon. You're welcome to contact the Arts Commission—they've already received the report.

We've been reviewing a series of technical reports as part of early planning for the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project, and this one, which just came in, is extremely concerning because the findings point to a clear and immediate public safety risk at the Vaillancourt Fountain. The piece was designed to be interactive. People were encouraged to walk through it and engage with the sculpture. That's clearly no longer safe. The structure is unstable, hazardous materials are present, and we cannot allow public access to a space that now poses multiple safety risks.

As a precaution, we'll be installing protective fencing around the entire fountain starting Monday morning. There's already a 72-inch barrier behind the fountain; this new addition will

include a 42-inch ClearVu fence in front—low-profile but effective at preventing climbing or close contact, without obstructing views. A rendering is attached.

This report, prepared by Page & Turnbull, with structural analysis by DCI Engineers and hazardous materials testing by North Tower Environmental, is the most thorough assessment of the fountain to date. The bottom line is that the fountain is no longer safe to approach or interact with.

Here are some key findings in the report: (see *Conclusions*, p. 31 of the PDF):

1. The structure is failing and dangerous.
    - The fountain doesn't meet modern seismic safety standards and could fail in a major earthquake.
    - Parts of the structure are cracked, corroded, or missing, including a key support rod in one arm.
    - It sits on unstable Bay Mud and unconsolidated fill—high-risk conditions during seismic events.
2. The infrastructure is nonfunctional.
    - All pumps and motors have failed.
    - The underground vault floods, violates OSHA standards, and is no longer safe for staff.
    - Electrical and lighting systems are beyond repair.
    - Waterproofing has failed, allowing ongoing structural damage.
3. Hazardous materials are confirmed and presumed.
    - Lead and asbestos are present in multiple areas.
    - Asbestos is also presumed in structural joints and the original waterproofing membrane, based on 1960s–70s construction methods.
    - Any repair would require full abatement and specialized safety protocols.
4. Full restoration would require massive investment.
    - Report doesn't give a dollar amount but our structural maintenance yard estimated the cost of just replacing the systems to be $10 million. With the structural work needed and the removal of the hazardous materials, it could easily be $12-17 million.
    - As you recall, the fountain has required roughly $100,000/year in maintenance.

<u>Here's a quote from me if you need one</u>

"The fountain isn't just falling apart—it's hazardous. The structure is cracked, corroded, and missing key supports. Add lead and asbestos to the mix, and it's a serious safety risk. That's why we're fencing it off now, to protect the public while longer term decisions are made."

<u>What's Next?</u>

- This latest development doesn't change the pace or scope of the Embarcadero Plaza

and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. That effort is moving forward as planned. This is simply a necessary safety step in response to a newly documented risk.

- The Vaillancourt Fountain is part of San Francisco's Civic Art Collection. Any proposals or recommendation for consideration of removal of works in the Civic Art Collection from City property would be required to go through a formal public process led by the San Francisco Arts Commission (Charter Sec. 5.103.). This would include a presentation at a future Visual Arts Committee and Full Commission meeting, which will include an opportunity for the public to provide comments.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

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From:	Goodwin, Eoanna (REC)
To:	Eidem, Cort (REC)
Cc:	Aparton, Tamara (REC); Ng, Beverly (REC)
Subject:	RE: Fence imagery
Date:	Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:57:29 PM
Attachments:	DWG Q536344 EMBARCADERO REVISED 2-4-25.pdf 1438-NF-CV-00-01-00-00-A-R00.pdf 1438-NF-PG-00-01-00-00-A-R00.pdf Vaillancourt_Render.jpg Vaillancourt Fence Diagram.jpg Vaillancourt Planter Diagram 2.jpg ClearVu Fence.JPG

Hi Cort,

Confirming the fence around Vaillancourt Fountain would be 42 inches high in front and 72 inches high in back?

Eoanna Harrison Goodwin AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Project Manager, Capital and Planning Division
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1220 | San Francisco, CA 94103
(628) 652-6645 | eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

From: Eidem, Cort (REC) <cort.eidem@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:29 AM
To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Fence imagery

Hi Eoanna,
Sharing the attached documents for the fence design.
The fence around the back will be 6ft tall ClearVu fence (similar to the attached image) and could get installed this month.
The 42” fence around the front of the fountain has material delays and will not be available for installation until mid-Summer.

Thanks,
Cort

From:	Aparton, Tamara (REC)
To:	Laura Kerl
Cc:	Aaron Fenton
Subject:	Re: heads up on Chronicle story publishing Monday
Date:	Friday, June 6, 2025 1:19:15 PM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png image004.png

Will do!

From: Laura Kerl <lkerl@bxp.com>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 1:13:03 PM
To: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: RE: heads up on Chronicle story publishing Monday

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Tamra, Aaron forwarded me the below. Please ensure I am included on all comms/PR along with Aaron. Happy weekend!

Laura Kerl
Marketing Director

Two Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 772-0754
lkerl@bxp.com

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Patterson, Kate (ECN) <kate.patterson@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ng, Beverly (REC) <beverly.ng@sfgov.org>
Subject: heads up on Chronicle story publishing Monday

Hi Aaron and Kate,
I wanted to give you both a quick heads-up that the *San Francisco Chronicle* will be publishing a story early Monday morning regarding the Vaillancourt Fountain.

The story (which the Chronicle is embargo-ing until Monday morning to coincide with safety fencing going up around the fountain is this:

Rec and Park has been reviewing several technical reports as part of early planning for the renovation, and one of the most recent—prepared by Page & Turnbull with structural input from DCI Engineers and hazardous materials testing by North Tower Environmental—raises serious public safety concerns about the fountain.

Key findings include:

- The fountain is structurally compromised and doesn't meet current seismic standards.
- Critical elements, including a key support rod, are missing or corroded.
- It contains lead and asbestos, with full abatement required for any repair.
- Its infrastructure is nonfunctional (failed pumps, lighting, and flooding of the vault).
- A full restoration would likely cost $12–17 million.

As a precautionary measure, Rec and Park will be installing a low-profile but effective ClearVu fence around the fountain beginning Monday morning. This step is solely about safety and does **not** affect the timeline or scope of the renovation project, which continues as planned.
Any longer-term decisions regarding the fountain will go through the public process outlined by the Arts Commission, including review by the Visual Arts Committee and opportunities for public comment.

Happy to share more details or answer any questions, but mostly just wanted you to be aware before the story before it's published. Arts Commission was contacted for comment and gave a "safety comes first" statement.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park | 501 Stanyan Street | San Francisco, CA | 94117

(415) 831-6849 (office) | (415) 568-0551 (cell)

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From:	Blazei, Hannah L
To:	Aparton, Tamara (REC); Communications, RPD (REC)
Cc:	Dinsmore, Brian N; August, Shane; Rosenblum, Gregg; Andrade, Jabriel Millen S; Te, Coma (ART)
Subject:	Re: KPIX Seeking Statement
Date:	Monday, June 9, 2025 10:24:40 AM

Great thanks Tamara

From: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Blazei, Hannah L <Hannah.Blazei@cbs.com>; Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Cc: Dinsmore, Brian N <Dinsmore@cbs.com>; August, Shane <saaugust@cbs.com>; Rosenblum, Gregg <gdrosenblum@cbs.com>; Andrade, Jabriel Millen S <JabrielMillen.Andrade@cbs.com>; Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>
Subject: RE: KPIX Seeking Statement

External Email

Hi Hannah,

You can find the report here.

Here's a statement:
The Vaillancourt Fountain was designed for people to interact with it. This report made it clear that is no longer safe. Parts of the structure are cracked, corroded, or missing, including a key support rod in one arm. It also contains lead and asbestos. As a result, we are fencing it off. People will still be able to view the piece, but not walk through it. This step is strictly about ensuring public safety. It doesn't impact the timeline or scope of the broader Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. Any long-term decisions regarding the future of the fountain will follow the public process established by the Arts Commission, including review by the Visual Arts Committee and opportunities for community input.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

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From: Blazei, Hannah L <Hannah.Blazei@cbs.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>; Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>
Cc: Dinsmore, Brian N <Dinsmore@cbs.com>; August, Shane <saaugust@cbs.com>; Rosenblum, Gregg <gdrosenblum@cbs.com>; Andrade, Jabriel Millen S <JabrielMillen.Andrade@cbs.com>
Subject: KPIX Seeking Statement

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi SF Rec and Park Department,

Do you have a statement about the public safety risk posed by the Vaillancourt Fountain on Embarcadero Plaza? And the fact that it will be fenced off indefinitely?

Where can I find your report about its condition?

Hannah Blazei
Assignment Editor | News
KPIX-TV KBCW-TV SAN FRANCISCO | CBS NEWS BAY AREA
O: (415) 765-8601 C: (415) 531-6767
E: hannah.blazei@cbs.com

From:	Aparton, Tamara (REC)
To:	Sergio Alexander; Montes, Daniel (REC); Communications, RPD (REC)
Cc:	KRON Assignment Desk; Te, Coma (ART)
Subject:	RE: URGENT Request from KRON4 in San Francisco
Date:	Monday, June 9, 2025 9:53:00 AM
Attachments:	image002.png

Hi Sergio,

That's correct.

The Vaillancourt Fountain was designed for people to interact with it. This report made it clear that is no longer safe. Parts of the structure are cracked, corroded, or missing, including a key support rod in one arm. It also contains lead and asbestos. As a result, we are fencing it off. People will still be able to view the piece, but not walk through it. This step is strictly about ensuring public safety. It doesn't impact the timeline or scope of the broader Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. Any long-term decisions regarding the future of the fountain will follow the public process established by the Arts Commission, including review by the Visual Arts Committee and opportunities for community input.

Tamara Barak Aparton
Deputy Director, Communications and Public Affairs

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From: Sergio Alexander <SAlexander@kron4.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Aparton, Tamara (REC) <tamara.aparton@sfgov.org>; Montes, Daniel (REC) <daniel.montes@sfgov.org>; Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdcommunications@sfgov.org>
Cc: KRON Assignment Desk <KRONAssignmentDesk@nexstar.tv>
Subject: URGENT Request from KRON4 in San Francisco

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello, this is Sergio Alexander, Assignment Editor, from KRON4 in San Francisco.

I was looking for information regarding the possible closure of the Vaillancourt Fountain on Embarcadero Plaza. I saw on another outlet that the fountain was supposed to be fenced off today due to safety concerns. Can you confirm this? Can you give me the reasons why it may have been deemed unsafe?

Thank you for your help in advance.

Sergio Alexander
Assignment & Digital Editor
KRON4 News

900 Front Street

San Francisco, CA 94111

415-561-8905 | Office

www.kron4.com

From: Te, Coma (ART)
To: Whiting, Sam
Subject: RE: Vaillancourt fence
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 4:47:14 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Sam,

Regarding the placement of a fence around the Embarcadero Fountain, given the findings presented in the structural report, public safety comes first. The Arts Commission supports Rec and Parks' decision to secure the area as they work to complete planning and design work for the plaza.

Thanks,

Coma Te
Director of Communications
Pronouns: he/him
Email: coma.te@sfgov.org
Office: 415-252-2229
Mobile: 415-254-4634

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102

www.sfartscommission.org

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The San Francisco Arts Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone. We affirm the sovereign rights of their community as First Peoples and are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the American Indian community and uplifting contemporary indigenous voices and culture.

Please be mindful that all correspondence and documents submitted to the San Francisco Arts Commission are public records and, as such, are subject to the Sunshine Ordinance and can be requested by the public. If this happens, personal identifying information such as personal emails and phone numbers will be redacted.

From: Whiting, Sam <SWhiting@sfchronicle.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt fence

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Coma: I working on a story about the order by Rec and Park to completely fence off the Vaillancourt Fountain while it awaits a final decision.

I'm hoping you can get me a quote on behalf of the Arts Commission regarding this decision. It comes as a result of a 122-page report by Page & Turnbull. The story is being embargoed at the request of Rec and Park but I have to have it ready to go when the embargo is lifted and will need a response from the Arts Commission today or Thursday.

Thanks.

Sam Jackson Whiting

Staff Writer

901 Mission St.

San Francisco, CA 94103

C: 415-646-5024

swhiting@sfchronicle.com

San Francisco Chronicle